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# RADIO PROPAGANDA REPORT

Soviet guided Missile Research

~~SOVIET OUTER-SPACE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMING, MAY - AUGUST 1960:~~

~~NEW FOCUS ON MANNED SPACE FLIGHT~~

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PROPAGANDA REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 1960

This is the sixth in a series of reports tracing Soviet propaganda on outer-space developments since the sputnik launchings. Prior reports in this series were:

RS.22 of 2 February 1959, "Moscow Propaganda on Soviet Astronautics: Indications of Problems and Forecasts of New Achievements"

CD.141 of 13 May 1959, "Soviet Outer-Space Projects: Propaganda Anticipations of New Achievements"

CD.151 of 7 August 1959, "Soviet Outer-Space Projects and Programming: May-July 1959"

CD.159 of 9 December 1959, "Soviet Outer-Space Projects and Programming: August-November 1959"

CD.166 of 5 May 1960, "Soviet Outer-Space Projects and Programming: December 1959-April 1960"

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PROPAGANDA REPORT  
1 SEPTEMBER 1960

- 1 -

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SOVIET OUTER-SPACE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMING, MAY - AUGUST 1960:

NEW FOCUS ON MANNED SPACE FLIGHT

Summary

1. Discussion of Soviet progress toward manned space flight now dominates Moscow's comment on astronautics, to the virtual exclusion of any other space project. The trend toward emphasis on manned flight began with the launching of the first spaceship satellite in mid-May, which brought the first public Soviet commitment to the man-in-space race. With the June recovery of an animal-carrying rocket, the July test firings into the Pacific of a "powerful multistage carrier rocket," and the mid-August launching of the second spaceship and recovery of its animal payload, science spokesmen have become progressively more confident about successful flight by a Soviet astronaut in a foreseeable future.
2. Assurances that manned flight will not be undertaken until it is absolutely safe continue to be offered. But where such assurances before May were heavily emphasized and were calculated to caution against premature expectations, they now appear as qualifiers to optimistic forecasts that the problems of safe flight are well on the way to solution.
3. Launchings of satellites carrying more highly developed animals are envisaged as the next steps preliminary to manned space flight. The orbiting of increasingly heavy earth satellites, a prominent subject since January, is now discussed in relation to the manned-flight effort more frequently than in the period before May.
4. That the USSR leads in the space race is both implied and stated explicitly. Forecasts that a Soviet man will be first in outer space have been reiterated, in one instance by an Academy of Sciences official--an unusually authoritative source for such predictions. And one science commentator has claimed a "three to five year" lead for the USSR--an unusually precise comparison. Direct comparisons between U.S. and Soviet space programming picture the Soviet experiments as much more comprehensive and stress the standard theme that the USSR follows peaceful scientific pursuits while the United States gears its experiments to militaristic and espionage purposes.

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PROPAGANDA REPORT  
1 SEPTEMBER 1960

- 2 -

SOVIET OUTER-SPACE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMING, MAY - AUGUST 1960:

NEW FOCUS ON MANNED SPACE FLIGHT

A new, steadily sharpening focus on manned space flight has characterized Moscow's propaganda on astronautics since the mid-May spaceship-satellite success, which brought an abandonment of earlier cautious reticence and the first public Soviet commitment to the man-in-space race. Since the second spaceship success in August, Moscow propagandists have played up the man-in-space effort to the virtual exclusion of any other space projects.

Thus Soviet science commentators currently give only token attention to plans for further rocket flights to the moon and prospects for sending a rocket to Venus or Mars. Moon probes had been mentioned prominently before May as achievements likely "in the near future"; Mars or Venus rockets were called already feasible, though uncertain primarily because of the "navigational season" problem. These projects continue to be mentioned as items on the working agenda, but the effort to generate an air of expectancy is now concentrated on manned flight.

The projected orbiting of still heavier earth satellites, a prominent subject since the January Soviet rocket test in the Pacific, is now related to the manned-flight effort more frequently than in the propaganda before May.

Somewhat increased comment explicitly contrasting U.S. with Soviet progress includes the claim that the USSR leads the United States in space technology by three to five years (a precise comparison of the sort heretofore avoided by Soviet spokesmen) and an unusually authoritative reiteration (by an official of the Academy of Sciences) that "a Soviet man" will be first in outer space.

Progressively Increased Confidence About Manned Flight

Prior to the May launching of the first spaceship satellite, Soviet science spokesmen acknowledged only indirectly that the USSR was moving ahead with an actual program for putting a manned vehicle in space. By October 1959 the Soviet press was carrying detailed discussions of laboratory studies of the effects of speed, altitude, and gravitational forces

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on the human organism, publishing photographs of test chambers and men in protective flying gear, and lauding the achievements of Soviet test pilots. Forecasts that the first astronaut would be a Soviet test pilot became somewhat more frequent in late 1959, conveying a sense of increased optimism.

But there was still no direct reference to a Soviet astronaut-in-training program. All propaganda on manned flight pictured it as the most remote of Soviet undertakings, pointing to the crucial problems of safe flight and return that remained to be solved. The Soviet people were assured repeatedly that no Soviet man would be sent into space before his safety could be guaranteed. The U.S. Mercury project, mentioned for the first time in Soviet media in the November (No. 11) INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, was disparaged as "sheer sensationalism," and Radio Moscow's North American listeners were told that "it is wrong to think manned flight into space is the main or top-priority objective" of Soviet scientists.

The 15 May Spaceship Satellite: The 15 May launching was the first one to be described by Soviet spokesmen as part of a program for putting a manned vehicle in space. Noting that the first spaceship had a pressurized cabin on board which contained a dummy space man and "all the necessary equipment for future manned flight," the official TASS announcement said the launching "lays the beginning for the difficult endeavors to build reliable spaceships guaranteeing safe manned flights into outer space."

TASS on 18 May quoted an IZVESTIA article by Professor G. Rosenberg as calling the spaceship "the first of a series of satellites designed to solve the problem of human travel in space." Other press articles and radio commentaries were equally explicit about the relationship of the 15 May launching to a man-in-space program. And one scientist went so far as to predict, in a TASS interview, that the flight of a Soviet man into space might be possible "within months."

The June Launching: The launching and safe recovery in June of a Soviet rocket carrying animals was hailed by Soviet commentators as "another step forward along the way of preparing for launching a manned spaceship." The biophysical studies made in connection with the rocket flight, which was billed as a geophysical year experiment, were described by Academician Blagonravov (TASS, 5 July) as "a preliminary phase toward manned space flight."

July Pacific Tests: The 19 August orbiting of the second spaceship satellite was preceded, like the May launching, by test firings into the Pacific. The firing on 5 and 7 July of "a new version of a powerful

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PRC HANDBOOK REPORT  
1 SEPTEMBER 1960

- 4 -

multistage carrier rocket" was said to have yielded all data necessary to complete the development of a carrier rocket "designed for the conquest of outer space."

The August Spaceship: Although comment following the May spaceship launching had indicated that the reentry problem would be tackled with the highest priority, the fact that an attempt was to be made to recover the second spaceship in August was not preannounced. The TASS announcement of the launching on 19 August hinted at a recovery attempt, but was carefully phrased to avoid too explicit a commitment in the event that the attempt failed: TASS said the main purpose of the launching was "to develop further a system for manned space flight, safety of manned flight, and return to earth." (This wording contrasted with the explicit statement at the time of the May launching that no attempt at recovery would be made; TASS predicted in May that the first spaceship would "descend upon command" and "burn up in the denser layers of the atmosphere.")

The successful recovery of the animal payload, announced on 20 August, was welcomed as another great stride toward the goal of putting a manned satellite in orbit around the earth. The priority of the man-in-space project was made clear. Thus Academician Topchiev commented at a Moscow press conference on 24 August that

the steady increase in weight and size of Soviet artificial satellites and space rockets is the fundamental scientific and technical line of the experimental work directed toward a single aim--the design and production of a spaceship that would provide all necessary conditions for manned space flight.

Other comment has similarly superseded the disclaimers made as recently as January that manned space flight was "not the top-priority objective" of Soviet scientists. And where in January a prominent Soviet scientist questioned whether a man in space would really be able to solve any problems that could not be solved by automatic devices (Academician Sedov in NEW TIMES No. 3, January 1960), science commentators now observe that even the most perfect automatic devices will not preclude the need for sending a man into space.

#### Continued Insistence on Caution, But in Optimistic Context

Soviet commentators have by no means stopped tempering their optimistic forecasts with assurances that manned space flight will be very carefully prepared before it is undertaken. One scientist wrote in PRAVDA, according to a 25 August TASS dispatch, that manned flight "cannot be prompted by considerations of publicity"--the considerations imputed by Soviet propagandists to the United States.

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In similar vein, Kukarkin, the deputy chairman of the Astronomic Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences, told Soviet radio listeners on 20 August that "man will be launched into space only when his health, his life, and his possibility of returning to earth are fully guaranteed." Academician Danil Markov emphasized (TASS, 22 August) that "cosmic medicine is still confronted with many problems to secure safe flights of explorers of the universe and their safe return to earth." And physiologist K. Anukhin told the Soviet home audience on 20 August that "a man cannot be sent into the cosmos before a most detailed study has been made of the state of the organisms of an animal in cosmic space."

Nevertheless, such statements appear now in the context of a greatly increased confidence in successful resolution of these problems in a foreseeable future.

Two prominent Academicians, Berg and Ambartsumyan, have stressed that the "faultless operation" of the telemetric system and all the automatic mechanisms in the second spaceship satellite make it possible to say with confidence that "the day is not far distant when the first astronaut will make an interplanetary voyage."

Several science commentators have used the phrase "the hour is near" to indicate the imminence of a manned space flight attempt. And the vice chairman of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, T. Gorbachev, was quoted by TASS on 20 August as expressing confidence that "a Soviet man will be the first to venture into space." Prior statements to this effect have not come from such authoritative spokesmen.

#### Further Experiments with Animals Anticipated

That manned space flights will be preceded by the launching of a satellite with more highly developed animals than dogs has been indicated by a number of spokesmen. Thus Professor Leonid Grigoriyevich, in a home service talk on 21 August, said that although dogs have proved to be good subjects for rocket experiments, "before a manned flight can be made it will be necessary to conduct experiments with more highly developed animals." Scientist Voronin was quoted in the same broadcast as saying that further experiments would be made with monkeys, and that this would be followed by "observation of man in conditions near to those to be met in space."

(Scientist V.V. Parin, on the other hand, told representatives of the press on 24 August that it was "not absolutely necessary" to send an ape into outer space prior to man's flight, though such an experiment "would not be useless." In an article in PRAVDA on 28 August, Parin



- 6 -

said that Soviet biologists and doctors look forward to a repetition of the August spaceship experiment, "which is immediately connected with the health of future cosmonauts.")

The authoritative spokesman Academician Topchiev stated at the 24 August Moscow press conference that "notwithstanding many investigations already made, the problem of manned space flight is so comprehensive that another series of experimental launchings is still ahead in order to solve the great number of tasks connected with man's safety in outer space and his return to earth." And Academician Kukarkin said over Radio Moscow on 20 August that televised observation of the behavior of animals in space during forthcoming experiments "will undoubtedly bring us closer to solution" of the problem of safe manned flight.

#### Continued Disparagement of U.S. Space Program

Moscow has, in the customary manner, brushed off the recent U.S. space achievements as insignificant. Soviet newscasts briefly reported the recovery of the Discoverer XIII capsule, but barely mentioned the launching of Discoverer XIV and ignored the mid-air recovery of its payload on 19 August, the same day the second Soviet spaceship was launched.

Somewhat more explicitly commentators contrast U.S. with Soviet progress in space experimentation and play on the standard theme that the Soviet program pursues peaceful ends while the American one serves militaristic and espionage purposes.

One of the more charitable Soviet discussions of the U.S. space program, in a BULLETIN OF THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES article reviewed by TASS on 6 August, saw the U.S. and Soviet programs as following the same lines except in two respects:

- § The U.S. experiments, the BULLETIN said, have emphasized individual problems, while the Soviet ones combined broad meteorological observation of the stratosphere with complex experiments to determine interrelationships between individual phenomena. Because the Soviet experiments were so comprehensive, the article said, it was not necessary for the Soviet Union to send up as many satellites as the United States had launched. The BULLETIN said that with the exception of Explorer VII (launched 13 October 1959), all the U.S. satellites, "owing to their small size," were designed to solve isolated physical problems.
- § All the Soviet rockets and sputniks were launched in accordance with a peaceful scientific program, while the American experiments served military ends: "These [U.S.] experiments and the use of outer space

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PROPAGANDA REPORT  
1 SEPTEMBER 1960.

- 7 -

for gross and open espionage, as borne out by the launching of the American Midas satellite, constitute a big danger to international cooperation and represent provocation from the political viewpoint."

Other commentators have contrasted specific Soviet and U.S. experiments: Thus the Discoverer project has been described as designed for "space espionage" while the Soviet spaceship "is a ship of peace and friendship" (PRAVDA editorial, 24 August). Academician Federov wrote in the 21 August PRAVDA that the Western press had "grossly exaggerated the recovery, after the 12th unsuccessful attempt, of a small box of film from a satellite [Discoverer XIII]." The latest Soviet feat, on the other hand, brought the "hour" nearer when man will for the first time fly into outer space.

As for overall rate of progress, Soviet leadership of the space race is implied most frequently by the forecasts that the first astronaut will be a Soviet citizen and by the characterizations of the Soviet experiments as more comprehensive and more productive. One unusually precise comparison of rate of progress was made in a home service talk by science propagandist Pokrovskiy, who claimed on 21 August that the USSR leads the United States in space technology "by three to five years."

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